## EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL AGE STRUCTURES FOR RED KING AND SNOW CRAB

April Rebert Crab Plan Team Meeting May 8, 2018

## "DEVELOP AND VALIDATE AGING METHODS FOR CRABS"- NPFMC 2017



Paralithodes camtshaticus



Chionoecetes opilio

## STRUCTURES





<u>Research Question</u> What is an efficient, precise method for processing potential age determination structures of red king and snow crab?

## METHODS



## METHODS





#### Readable

Unreadable

# Clear = Readable



# Yuk = Unreadable



# Damaged = Excluded



## SECTION THICKNESS

### $\iff$ = 120 - 200 $\mu$ m

(Leland et al 2011, Kilada et al 2012)



## SECTION ORIENTATION





## WHERE EXACTLY





## WHERE EXACTLY







## WHERE EXACTLY



## SPECIES-SPECIFIC PROCEDURES



## RESEARCH QUESTION: HOW DO WE INTERPRET THE BANDING PATTERNS?

## METHODS







## TESTED CRITERIA

Average

## RESEARCH QUESTION: ARE THERE MORE BANDS IN LARGER ANIMALS?

## BAND COUNT AND SIZE



### T test: p= 0.0078

#### T test: p= 0.0033

## Research Question

# Are there more bands in older shell conditions?



#### Up to 7 years



4.5y post

> (Comeau et al. 1992; Fonesca et al. 2008, Jadamec et al. 1999)

METHODS

0.5y post

## METHODS







#### ANOVA Band Count~ Shell Condition

p=0.8921

#### RESEARCH QUESTION: IS THE ENDOCUTICLE LARGER IN OLDER SHELL CONDITION CRAB?

## METHODS

Image at standard location
Measure cuticle thickness



#### Shell Condition with Endocuticle Thickness Snow Crab



#### ANOVA Thickness~ Shell Condition

p=0.1716

## SUMMARY

- Methods and band counts
- Histology work
- What are the bands?
  - Related to size (age?)
  - Independent of shell condition (molting?)
- Variability in band width
- Should we care about this topic?
- Is this important for stock assessment models in the next 10 years?

## CONCLUSIONS

Use developed methods from this study
Investigate validation



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